

When Lori was appointed Field Mobilization Director in 2008, she supported and encouraged the participation of members from a wide variety of legislative and community programs. Her efforts were aimed at continuing the success of the WSLC's Labor Neighbor Political Program and tackling workforce training and apprenticeship issues. Lori has also been active in WSLC's Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Monitoring Committee, as well as with several government task forces and councils focused on workforce development policies.

After years of tireless work, Lori announced earlier this year that she would retire in November. Despite her retirement, Lori plans on remaining active in labor causes and will no doubt continue to make a positive impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize and congratulate Lori Province on her retirement and her outstanding work in the labor community.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUGLAS  
GILDNER'S SERVICE AS FIRE  
CHIEF OF THE CITY OF  
SOUTHGATE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 4, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fire Chief of Southgate, Michigan who is retiring this month after 27 years of service to the Southgate Fire Department, the last six as the City's Fire Chief.

Since he first started with the department in 1988, Doug has been known for being temperate and hard-working. These traits have earned him the credibility to be a consensus builder in the community and enabled him to navigate the department through good times as well as challenging times. Embodying the idea that hard work pays off, Doug has climbed the ranks in the department all the way to the top. Becoming chief in 2009, Doug's ability to build relationships with the other area chiefs has had a profound impact on strengthening morale and improving safety in the Downriver communities.

Doug has always been a member of the community first, and that's not going to change. He will continue to teach young firefighters at Schoolcraft College, preparing new teams of heroes to keep our communities safe. Doug serves as an excellent role model not only for these students, but in his newest and most important position: grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Chief Douglas Gildner for his twenty seven years of service and his lasting impact on the Downriver communities. I thank him for his leadership, and wish him many years of happiness.

HONORING BRAVE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED OUR  
COUNTRY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 4, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we approach Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform. Earlier this year I met with a group of young Iowans belonging to the Junior Optimists Club—they found a truly unique way to pay tribute to our Iowa veterans.

The Sidey family owned and published the Free Press in Greenfield, Iowa, for over 125 years. The Free Press would publish letters Iowa servicemen sent home to their families over the years. The Junior Optimists I met went through the Sidey's collection of soldiers' letters from World War II. They picked out the ones they found most interesting or compelling and read them aloud at a Flag Day celebration that I was fortunate to attend.

I want to share them here with my colleagues in the House of Representatives so that we and future generations may always remember the very real and human struggles our men and women face as they leave their loved ones behind to bravely serve our country with dignity, honor, and distinction.

Corporal Russell Smith, serving with the Army in North Africa, wrote the following letter dated May 23, 1943, to his sister:

Will write a few lines tonight to let you know I am getting along ok and hope this find you the same. We haven't been doing much since the war is over down here. Up to now we have been gathering and cleaning up all the German equipment that they left. There is everything from a rifle up to an airplane. Lots of tanks and big guns. They burned about everything though, so it isn't much good for anything except iron. I didn't know they had as much stuff in the whole German army as I've seen here in the last couple of weeks. Right now that is for a week. Believe it nor not, we are on a week's vacation on the beach of the Mediterranean. We have to do a little fishing in the forenoon but in the afternoon we can do anything we like, go boating, swimming, play ball or drink wine or just lay around and sleep. This probably isn't all as good as it sounds but it's sure a good break for after what we've been through. I've had some pretty good experiences or I might say not so good. We had everything from mortar shells to bombs dropped on us and sometimes I thought every Hynie in the German army was firing machine guns and rifles at us. We were pinned down several times, but the longest was one day when we were attacking a hill and pinned down about 6 in the morning and had to lay there all day with only a little bunch of grass in front of some of us, and some didn't even have that. Didn't hardly dare wiggle a finger or they would let go everything that they had, and I mean we didn't move until it got dark. Didn't take a drink of water or smoke a cigarette, and boy it was hot. Les was also in that same battle the day before. That's about all I can tell you about it so will call it enough.

The following are a few extracts from a letter written by Sgt. Ernest L. "Budd" Jenkins dated June 23, 1943 from Camp Shelby, Mississippi to his Aunt and Uncle—Mr. and Mrs. Charley Gillham.

I have a good excuse for not answering your letter sooner as I have been in the field on firing problems and naturally there is no way of writing letters while out in the woods. That's some life, setting our big guns in position and firing in the heat of the day about 102 all day long. Then black-out driving at pitch dark into another position to make a surprise attack on the enemy. When we finally slow up to see if we can get a few hours sleep we battle mosquitoes, insects, lizards and snakes and finally roll up in stubborn sleep, when bang "Fire Mission" and we roll out to produce fire from our guns. We like it and we'll do it until we're tops, so darn good that when we go over there well have Nazis and [Japanese] running in every direction. Look what the artillery did to the Germans over in Africa. I can't tell you how happy I am to do my bit. I'm only one in about 10,000 trying to get to do my bit. I hope all of you are well and happy. I'd like awfully well to see you.

Write soon,

BUDD.

Private Floyd Stimen, September 11, 1943, while serving in Italy:

I sure will be glad when this war is over and everything is back to normal. Am pretty sure I am going out of the Navy for I want a normal home and a decent job and few of the things they are promising us now. All I have to say is that they better make those promises good. For these fellows are sure counting on it, and there will be enough of them to make it pretty hot if they don't make good on their promises. I am so damn tired of all this fighting when all you have to look forward to is going to sea again with duty 16 and 18 hours a day.

I guess my stay in the hospital has spoiled me. I know it softened me up a lot for I lost over 20 pounds but have started to gain it back again now. I kinda miss seeing all those good looking nurses around but I guess it's just as well for they had me spoiled. They are really a swell bunch of people. (1 in particular) for she always treated me well. She used to get me special food and ice cream, anything I wanted and the rest of the patients had to take what they got. I can tell you now, I am well and out of there but you about lost your "little boy Floydie" for a couple of times I about bled to death and they had to give me transfusions but that's all in the past and forgotten. I am going to take the nurse that was good to me out to dinner and a show Monday night to show my appreciation.

Well folks, I am about run down so will close for this time. I hope you are all ok. Write me at the new address. Tell everyone hello for me.

All my love,

FLOYD.

This letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beaman of Canby, Iowa from Technical Sergeant Adam C. Wygonik of Chicago, who was brought back to the United States on the SS *Gripsholm*, concerning their son, Sgt. Howard Beaman, a prisoner of war in Germany.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1943.

I am a very good friend of your son, Howard. I've been in the same squadron with him and even flew him in the same ship. We were also in the same camp in Germany, and when I left the camp in August (to be repatriated) Howard was in the best of health and feeling like a million. He is getting your mail and parcels quite regularly now (even though it takes six months to get there) and he sure does enjoy them. All last winter Howard was my bridge partner and all summer long he has been pretty busy managing "Beaman's Demons" baseball team there in camp. I